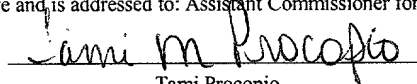


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Tami Procopio

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: U.S. National Phase application of:

Robert Patrick HOF, *et al.*

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Based on The Netherlands App.: 1015495

Int' Filing Date: 22 June 2000

For: PROCESS FOR RACEMISING AN
ENANTIOMER-ENRICHED SCHIFF
BASE OF AN AMINO ACID AMIDE

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment prior to examination, please amend the claims as follows:

T.02290"EE643860

AMENDMENT

Please replace presently pending claims 1-11 with the following claims 12-22:

12. (new) A process for racemising an enantiomer-enriched Schiff base derived from a primary amino acid amide which process comprises contacting said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base with a strong base in an organic solvent wherein said strong base is chemically reactive with water.

13. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide, a metal alkyl, a metal amide, or a metal hydride.

14. (new) The process of claim 13 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide.

15. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.001-1000 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

16. (new) The process of claim 15 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.1-100 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

17. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is an N-benzylidene primary amino acid amide.

18. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from an aliphatic primary amino acid amide.

19. (new) The process of claim 18 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from tertiary-leucine amide.

20. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon, a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon or an ether.

21. (new) The process of claim 20 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.

22. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base has been prepared from the primary amino acid amide in said organic solvent.

REMARKS

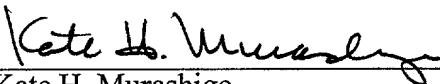
Proposed claims 12-22 are substantially similar to original claims 1-11, but have eliminated multiple dependencies to avoid extra claim fees and have been edited to conform to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 246152800000. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2001

By:


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